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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 3, 6, and 10, add claim 23, and amend claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22, without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows.

Claim 1. (currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

an insulative housing defining a cavity having an opening for receiving a mating element, said cavity extending from said opening along a connection axis;

at least one terminal accommodated in said housing, said terminal having a contact portion exposed for mating through said opening with said mating element; and

a cover slidably retained by said housing, wherein said cover covers said contact portion at said opening when located at a first position, said cover being movable, relative to said housing, along a path to a second position to expose said contact portion for electrical contact with said mating element, said path being generally orthogonal with respect to said connection axis, said cover having an inclined surface portion facing away from said at least one terminal to enable said mating element to push said cover from said first position to said second position.

Claim 2. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 1, further comprising a spring retained by said housing, said spring biasing said cover toward said first position.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) The electrical connector [of claim 3] as recited in claim 2, further comprising a female alignment member comprising a socket for receiving a male alignment member.

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Claim 5. (original) The electrical connector of claim 4, wherein said female alignment member further includes a passageway extending between said socket and a passageway opening, said passageway opening being defined by a chamfered rim to receive said male alignment member and facilitate alignment of a misaligned male alignment member during mating.

Claim 6. (canceled)

Claim 7. (currently amended) The electrical connector [of claim 6] as recited in claim 5, wherein said inclined surface portion extends to [said forward] an end of said cover.

Claim 8. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 2, wherein said housing defines an outer periphery, said cover being movable entirely within said outer periphery.

Claim 9. (currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing adapted to receive at least one conductive first terminal; and

a second connector member mateable with said first connector member along a connection axis, said second connector member comprising an insulative second housing defining a cavity having a cavity opening adapted to receive said first terminal, said second housing adapted to receive at least one conductive second terminal, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said cavity for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover slidably retained by said second housing, said cover covering said contact portion at said cavity opening when located at a first position, said cover having a surface exposed for mating whereby upon an insertion

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movement of said first connector member with respect to said second connector member along said connection axis, said first connector member moves said cover along a path toward a second position exposing said cavity opening for said first terminal to enter said cavity and electrically contact said second terminal, said path extending generally perpendicular in relation to said connection axis.

Claim 10. (canceled)

Claim 11. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 9, wherein said second housing defines an outer periphery, said cover being movable entirely within said outer periphery.

Claim 12. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 9, wherein said second connector member further comprises a spring biasing said cover toward said first position.

Claim 13. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An electrical connector ~~as recited in claim 12~~ further comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing adapted to receive at least one conductive first terminal:

a second connector member comprising an insulative second housing defining a cavity having a cavity opening adapted to receive said first terminal, said second housing adapted to receive at least one conductive second terminal, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said cavity for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover slidably retained by said second housing, said cover covering said contact portion at said cavity opening when located at a

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first position, said cover having a surface exposed for mating whereby upon an insertion movement of said first connector member with respect to said second connector member said first connector member moves said cover toward a second position exposing said cavity opening for said first terminal to enter said cavity and electrically contact said second terminal, wherein said second connector member further comprises a spring biasing said cover toward said first position; and

a flexible mounting bracket attached to one of said first and second connector members such that said one of said first and second connector members is free to move in both an X and a Y direction which extend orthogonally with respect to said a connection axis, said first connector member further comprising a male alignment member, said second connector member further comprising a female alignment member, wherein during said insertion movement said male and female alignment members cooperate with each other such that one of said first and second connector members is free to move in an X and a Y direction into alignment with the other of said first and second connector members.

Claim 14. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 13, wherein said male alignment member comprises a projection and said female alignment member comprises a passageway, said passageway extending to a passageway opening for receiving said projection, said passageway opening being defined by a chamfered rim to facilitate alignment of a misaligned male alignment member during mating.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The electrical connector as recited in claim 13, wherein said cover has a forward end facing a direction of movement from said second position toward said first position, said cover including an inclined surface portion on a first side which faces away from said cavity opening, said inclined surface portion sloping toward

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a second side opposite said first side and toward said forward end, and wherein during said [mating] insertion movement said male alignment member abuts said inclined surface portion thereby causing said cover to move from said first position toward said second position.

Claim 16. (currently amended) An electrical connector comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing, said first housing comprising a first alignment feature, at least one conductive first terminal being mounted in said first housing; and

a second connector member comprising an insulative second housing which defines an opening adapted to receive said first terminal, said second housing comprising a second alignment feature engageable with said first alignment feature to bring said first and second connector members into alignment when said first and second connector members are advanced toward each other for mating, at least one conductive second terminal being mounted in said second housing, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said opening for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover slidably secured to said second housing, wherein when said cover is located at a first position said cover extends across said opening to generally [covering] cover said opening [when located at a first position], said cover being movable along a linear path to a second position to expose said contact portion for electrical contact with said first terminal.

Claim 17. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 16, wherein said second connector member further comprises a spring retained by said housing, said spring biasing said cover toward said first position.

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Claim 18. (currently amended) The electrical connector as recited in claim 17, wherein said first connector mates with said second connector along a connection axis, said [cover being movable along a] linear path extending generally perpendicular in relation to said connection axis.

Claim 19. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An electrical connector ~~as recited in claim 18,~~ comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing and a male alignment member, at least one conductive first terminal being mounted in said first housing; and

a second connector member comprising an insulative second housing and a female alignment member, said second housing defining an opening adapted to receive said first terminal, at least one conductive second terminal being mounted in said second housing, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said opening for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover slidably secured to said second housing, said cover generally covering said opening when located at a first position, said cover being movable to a second position to expose said contact portion for electrical contact with said first terminal, wherein said second connector member further comprises a spring retained by said housing, said spring biasing said cover toward said first position, wherein said first connector mates with said second connector along a connection axis, said cover being movable along a path extending generally perpendicular in relation to said connection axis, ~~wherein said first connector member further comprises a male alignment member, and wherein said second connector member further comprises a female alignment member, wherein during a mating movement of said first connector member with~~

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respect to said second connector member said male and female alignment members cooperate with each other to bring said first and second connector members into alignment.

Claim 20. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 19, wherein said cover has a forward end facing a direction of movement from said second position toward said first position, said cover including an inclined surface portion on a first side which faces away from said opening, said inclined surface portion sloping toward a second side opposite said first side and toward said forward end, wherein during said mating movement said first connector member abuts said inclined surface portion to move said cover toward said second position.

Claim 21. (original) The electrical connector as recited in claim 16, wherein said second housing defines an outer periphery, said cover being movable entirely within said outer periphery.

Claim 22. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An electrical connector ~~as recited in claim 16~~ further comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing, at least one conductive first terminal being mounted in said first housing;

a second connector member comprising an insulative second housing which defines an opening adapted to receive said first terminal, at least one conductive second terminal being mounted in said second housing, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said opening for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover slidably secured to said second housing, said cover generally

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covering said opening when located at a first position, said cover being movable to a second position to expose said contact portion for electrical contact with said first terminal; and

a flexible mounting member attached to one of said first and second connector members such that said one of said first and second connector members is free to move in both an X and a Y direction which extend orthogonally with respect to a connection axis, wherein said first connector member further comprises a male alignment member, and wherein said second connector member further comprises a female alignment member, whereby during a mating movement of said first connector member with respect to said second connector member said male and female alignment members cooperate with each other such that one of said first and second connector members is free to move in an X and a Y direction into alignment with the other of said first and second connector members.

Claim 23. (new) An electrical connector comprising:

a first connector member comprising an insulative first housing and at least one conductive first terminal mounted in said first housing, said first connector member including a first alignment feature;

a second connector member comprising an insulative second housing and at least one conductive second terminal mounted in said second housing, said second housing defining an opening adapted to receive said first terminal, said second terminal having a contact portion exposed in said opening for electrically contacting said first terminal, said second connector member further comprising a cover secured to said second housing, said cover generally covering said opening when located at a first position, said cover being movable to a second position to expose said contact portion for electrical contact with said first terminal, said



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second connector member being mateable with said first connector member along a connection axis; and

a flexible mounting member attached to one of said first and second connector members, said mounting member enabling movement of said one of said first and second connector members in a direction generally orthogonal to said connection axis, said mounting member thereby enabling said first and second alignment features to mutually cooperate and guide said connector members into alignment as said connector members are moved toward each other during mating.